

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting of the above referenced subcommittees held on Monday, November 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilors Rivers, Hypolite, DeLorenzo, Deputy Mayor Schulman

Other Council Members present: Councilor Washington

Also present were: Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager, Sharron Howe, Assistant to the Town Manager, Chief Paul Hammick – Bloomfield Police Department, Mike Kosilla, Building Department, India Rodgers, Clerk of Council

Guest were: Charles Griggs, Lillie Thomas and Gloria Wilson of the Pershing Park Neighborhood

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m.

FY 14/15-08: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Modification to Town Ordinance, Article II Outdoor Illumination and Sound Amplifiers, Section 3-19b

Residents of the Pershing Park neighborhood brought complaints to the Town Manager's Office and Police Department regarding excessive noise in the area. It was noted that there is one particular house in the area where many complaints have been filed and the police department has been out to investigate.

Residents are requesting to prohibit amplified noise at any time and would like to revoke the time frame listed in the current ordinance. The current noise ordinance is 9pm – 7am. Proposals for a change in ordinance may include defined periods of time, noise levels (decibel readings) and overall process for executing fines when a complaint is filed.

Councilor Hypolite inquired about interpretation and standards and how changing it would solve the inherit problem.

Chief Hammick stated that he is not sure if changing the ordinance would make a difference. He provide corrective measures with possible timeframe and decibel measurements.

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager recommended to leave the hours as is and look at obtaining a decibel meter, modifying to special events, drafting specific thresholds referencing other communities and possible prosecutors recommendations for violations.

Councilor DeLorenzo inquired about town impounding sound equipment and its effectiveness. He suggested a 12 hour period for consideration of timeframes.

Chief Hammick, Mr. Schenck and other committee members discussed possibilities of using a decibel meter to determine levels of noise, inserting language in the current ordinance for special events, identifying specific thresholds for noise to take place.

FY 15/16-78: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Adopting a Plan for Holding Absentee Landlords Responsible for the Conditions of their Properties

The committee discussed a draft ordinance prepared by the Town Attorney, outlining fees or Landlord registration. It was noted that there has been no issues with identifying absentee residential landlords, however corporate partners are more difficult to locate and hold accountable.

Councilor Hypolite expressed concerns about the “real” focus on this proposed ordinance, relative to residential landlords in general.

Mr. Mike Kosilla of the town’s building department stated that the property owner is responsible. However, this proposed ordinance could be extensive to enforce.

Mayor Gamble stated she has received several complaints around town about renter’s not maintaining property, creating piles of trash and debris.

Deputy Mayor Schulman – disclose registered organization or company (ownership), sworn statement from registrant, \$90 per day or week violation fee, separate criteria from residential and commercial properties

Mr. Schenck, Jr. suggested that corporations should register instead of residential homeowners/renters

FY 16/17-15: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Ordinance on Block Parties and Neighborhood Gatherings

Mr. Charles Griggs expressed concerns regarding block parties and neighborhood gatherings. He is a homeowner and active participant with the Pershing Park Block Watch Association.

The committee discussed a possible solution instituting a formal application process for permits. This application and policy will set provisions to guidelines and notifications.

FY 16/17-17: Discussion and Possible Action on Parking Ban for Commercial Vehicles in Residential Neighborhoods

Mr. Griggs also commented regarding a parking ban for commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods.

Residents requested to remove the language permitting 1 hour to park a commercial vehicle in a residential neighborhood to no parking at all. The committee discussed the parameters around enforcement issues.

FY 16/17-14: Consider and Take Action Regarding Adoption of Policy 120.08 - Use of Employer Provided Vehicles

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to approve the policy for use of employer provided vehicles.

FY 16/17-16: Discussion and Possible Action Regarding an Ordinance on Fracking Waste

It was moved by Deputy Mayor Schulman, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to recommend to the full Council, requesting the Town Attorney move forward in preparing an ordinance against fracking waste or fracking activity in the Town of Bloomfield.

Discussion regarding issues and/or concerns involving the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC)

Mr. James Wren, Director of Finance attended the MDC meeting held on November 7, 2016.

Mr. Wren reported several options for town to consider:

- In the current fiscal year, the City of Hartford is required to pay \$11 million to the MDC. They have assured the MDC that January and April 2017 payments will be fulfilled. However, they are not certain about July 1, 2017 or October 1, 2017 scheduled payments.
- The discussion about utilizing reserves if Hartford defaults would impact finances for other member towns of the MDC.
- It was noted that MDC's bond rating received a downgrade from rating agencies, due to the issues with the City of Hartford.
- The town currently has 20% fund balance threshold. Town Administration has recommended reserving \$1.3 million if needed to cover associated cost with MDC.

Deputy Mayor Schulman inquired about the ramifications if the town left the MDC. He also stated that he is not in support of a bailout for Hartford.

Councilor Hypolite inquired about formulating direction for Commissioners with MDC to advocate on the town's behalf.

There was some detailed discussions regarding the financial issues and impact of the City of Hartford's lack of resources to pay their MDC water bill. Due to their potential failed commitment, member towns have been asked to share the cost burden of that debt. The committee discussed formulating direction to MDC commissioners who represent the town and its best interest.

Affirmative Action Update

Councilor Hypolite inquired about how job exams are designed to measure skill set, its purpose, and the prevention barriers to individuals.

Councilor Rivers suggested the creation of an apprenticeship program for Public Works department.

Town Manager Goals FY 16/17 Status Report

Mr. Philip K. Schenck, Jr., Town Manager gave an update of his goals from August 1, 2016 – July 30, 2017.

Communications

- The October 2016 newsletter has been printed and mailed to all town residents.
- The Annual Town Report will be sent out to all residents in December 2016.
- BATV program with Jim Wren, the new Finance Director and on October 6, 2016 and Marguerite Phillips will present information regarding voting and polling places.
- The new town website is scheduled to launch on November 18, 2016. The town chose Virtual Town Hall as the new vendor. The benefits of the new website will provide residents will the ability to have agendas sent electronically.
- The town will participate in the tree lighting of the town hall and town green, scheduled for November 28, 2016. The Colors of the Season event sponsored by Leisure Services will be on December 1, 2016.

- An RFP for the Community Relations Project is in its final stages and will be issued within two weeks. A job description was obtained from the Town of West Hartford as a guide. This project will integrate printed and social media.

Major Capital Projects

- The Granby Street pavement rehabilitation/drainage project final design has been completed. The Capitol Region Council of Government (CRCOG) will reissue the funding for construction to begin spring 2017.
- The town has signed the purchase and sale agreement for the property located at 97 Granby Street.
- The Prosser Library project is still a goal for the town center redevelopment. The Riley Lumber property for consideration in expansion efforts for the library remains in negotiations with Probate Court.
- The budget referendum for capital projects of 330 Park Avenue – Human Services Building and the Public Works complex will be placed on the voting ballot for November 8, 2016 election.
- The Mountain Avenue sidewalk project is expecting to begin in spring 2017.
- The East Coast Greenway meeting is scheduled for November 8, 2016 to discuss possible eminent domain to acquire a parking lot.

Economic Development

- The town is currently dealing with eminent domain issues at Southwood Road.
- Mr. Schenck, Jr. reported that Ace Hardware is going out of business.
- The Heirloom Flats, new apartment construction on Bloomfield and Jerome avenues is on schedule.
- Bloomfield Business Alliance upcoming meeting is scheduled for November 28, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.
- Wintonbury Mall is currently negotiating an agreement to have an urgent care center lease space.
- The town continues to work diligently on the Bloomfield Center traffic analysis.

Financial Management

- Mr. Schenck, Jr. gave a brief update regarding the refunding on bonds.
- Mr. Schenck, Jr. also reported that Mr. Todd Helms will begin employment on November 28, 2016 as the new Town Assessor.

Personnel Management

- There have been several issues with negotiations of union contracts with the UPSEU and Police unions.
- HRC Consultants will provide a quarterly Affirmative Action update in January 2017.

Public Comments

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Councilor DeLorenzo, seconded by Deputy Mayor Schulman and voted unanimously to approve the minutes of October 3, 2016.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Rivers, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:51p.m.